



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street
Suite 1250
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476
(215) 861-8200

March 27, 2003

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the unsealing of three indictments¹ against **Tamara Yacobenas, Corrine Wilson, Benjamin Sheppard, Ebony Price Sheppard, Amanda Sheppard, Lawanda Sheppard, Liza Jones, Marie Bush, Ginger Hands, Yolanda Dempsey, Tomiki Caison, Delores Dolison, and Nicole Dolison** charging them with conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. In addition, Tamara Yacobenas, Benjamin Sheppard, Ebony Price Sheppard, Amanda Sheppard, Lawanda Sheppard, Liza Jones, Marie Bush, Ginger Hands, Tomiki Caison, Delores Dolison, and Nicole Dolison are each charged with one count of theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 666. During the time of the offenses charged in the indictment, Charmaine Mabry, charged elsewhere, was employed by the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) as a Section 8 Eligibility Department. Under the Section 8 Voucher Program, PHA maintained a waiting list of applicants seeking to be chosen to receive a voucher to obtain Section 8 housing subsidies. With few exceptions, families were selected by PHA for inclusion into the Voucher Program by the use of periodic lottery drawings. Throughout 2001, there were approximately 27,000 applications in the applicant pool awaiting Section 8 housing subsidies.

Each of defendants in these indictments is charged with making payoffs to Charmaine Mabry in order to bypass the PHA lottery system and thereby obtain a Section 8 voucher through Charmaine Mabry. None of the defendants were then eligible to receive the benefit of Section 8 housing subsidies when they received their voucher. As a result of the vouchers that the Charmaine Mabry caused to be awarded as part of the her scheme, Section 8 housing subsidies in the amount of at least \$74,582 were paid on behalf of payers, including these defendants, who were not then eligible to receive them. It is also charged that Charmaine Mabry paid referral fees to individuals who referred others to corruptly obtain vouchers and housing subsidies under the voucher program to which they were not then entitled.

¹An Indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

March 25, 2003

Page 2

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>ATTORNEY</u> |
|--|------------|---|-------------------------|
| Yacobenas & Wilson Indictment | | | |
| Tamara Yacobenas | 4/27/75 | 256 E. Albanus Street Philadelphia, PA | Stanley Krackwer, Esq. |
| Corrine Wilson | 11/3/80 | 5853 Willows Ave. 2nd Floor Philadelphia, PA | Robert Sletvold, Esq. |
| Sheppard Indictment | | | |
| Benjamin Sheppard | 6/11/74 | 4315 Elizabeth Street Philadelphia, PA | Peter Lesh, Esq. |
| Ebony Price Sheppard | 8/2/79 | 4315 Elizabeth Street Philadelphia, PA | Jeff Lindy, Esq. |
| Amanda Sheppard | 3/10/66 | 3247 N. Hope Street Philadelphia, PA | Giovanni Campbell, Esq. |
| Lawanda Sheppard | 6/16/79 | 6109 Torresdale Ave. Philadelphia, PA | Scott Magargee, Esq. |
| The Jones, et al Indictment | | | |
| Liza Jones | 3/19/75 | 360E. Tulpehocken Street Apt. C-12 Philadelphia, PA | Don Moser, Esq. |
| Marie Bush | 8/22/80 | 360E. Tulpehocken Street Apt. B--6 Philadelphia, PA | Peter Levin, Esq. |
| Ginger Hands | 12/4/71 | 2337 Catherine Street Philadelphia, PA | David Maynard, Esq. |
| Yolanda Dempsey | 12/4/78 | 2607 Welsh Road Apt. I-205 Philadelphia, PA | JimBrose, Esq. |
| Tomiki Caison | 8/14/74 | 631 E. Wishart Street Philadelphia, PA | Bob O'Shea, Esq. |

March 25, 2003

Page 3

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>ATTORNEY</u> |
|-----------------|------------|--|-----------------------|
| Delores Dolison | 9/7/70 | 3835 Lawndale Street Philadelphia, PA | Ed Schwabbenlan, Esq. |
| Nicole Dolison | 7/17/64 | 4102 Ogden Street Apt. B | Staney Lacks, Esq. |

CHARGES AND MAXIMUM POSSIBLE PENALTIES

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>CHARGES</u> | <u>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SENTENCE</u> |
|--|---|--|
| Yacobenas & Wilson Indictment | | |
| Tamara Yacobenas | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 2) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Corrine Wilson | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1) | 5 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment |
| Sheppard Indictment | | |
| Benjamin Sheppard | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 2) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Ebony Price Sheppard | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 2) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |

March 25, 2003

Page 4

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>CHARGES</u> | <u>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SENTENCE</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Amanda Sheppard | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 3) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Lawanda Sheppard | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 4) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| The Jones, et al Indictment | | |
| Liza Jones | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 2) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Marie Bush | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 3) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Ginger Hands | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 4) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Yolanda Dempsey | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1) | 5 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment |

March 25, 2003

Page 5

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>CHARGES</u> | <u>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SENTENCE</u> |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Tomika Caison | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Extortion (18 U.S.C. §1951) (Count 5) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Delores Dolison | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 6) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |
| Nicole Dolison | Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States (18 U.S.C. § 371) (Count 1); Theft concerning a program receiving federal funds (18 U.S.C. § 666) (Count 7) | 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment |

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the PHA Office of the Inspector General and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Joel D. Goldstein.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: Rich Maneri
215-861-8525**